

To: Jenkins, Laura Flynn[Jenkins.Laura@epa.gov]
Cc: Spenser W Havlick[havlick@colorado.edu]
From: Spenser W Havlick
Sent: Mon 8/17/2015 8:27:00 PM
Subject: Re: ... editorial for the Daily Camera ... greetings Shaun,

Hi Laura,

Thanks again for your help. I will attach the piece below. Let me know what you think.

Best Regards,

Spense

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the preeminent federal watchdog and protector of our nation's water, land and air quality. The Animas River catastrophe is intolerable partly because Colorado has refused a National Priorities Listing for mine cleanup. The toxic plume extending from Colorado into New Mexico and the Navajo Reservation impacts some of the most vulnerable people and fragile landscapes.

The polluted Animas River dumps into the San Juan River whose vital water, now contaminated, is lifeblood to towns and ranches of Ute and Navajo people. Health officials say both rivers are off limits.

The mustard-colored Animas River that suffered acid mine water discharge this week has unusual connections to Boulder. Region 8 EPA Administrator is Shaun McGrath, a former Boulder mayor (2007) and a strong environmental advocate. He worked at the White House during the BP Gulf oil spill and faced outrage from impacted citizens and elected officials. Shaun hosted a meeting in Durango that was met with charges of cover up, distrust of the federal government and demands for reparations.

I have admired the beauty of the Animas, worked a service project on the Navajo Reservation and know kayakers and anglers from Boulder who frequent the Animas. Many people from Boulder cherish Lake Powell and the San Juan River. The entire Four Corners area is threatened by uranium and acid mine wastes. Without required old mine cleanup, Superfund designation is the unpopular solution.

The EPA should not be made the scapegoat in this Animas accident. The State of Colorado must shoulder some of the blame for the inadequate protection against the acid mine water discharge. For years the state resisted EPA efforts to provide more protection against this kind of hazard. Regional tourism interests feared negative publicity related to a Superfund designation much to their peril. Let us hope that good science and effective federal mitigation will prove to protect these waters and the other potential mine contaminations in the future.

Spense Havlick havlick@colorado.edu

On Aug 17, 2015, at 11:20 AM, Jenkins, Laura Flynn wrote:

Glad I was able help!

Would you mind sending me a link to your piece? I couldn't find it on the Daily Camera website.

Thanks and sorry for any inconvenience.

Laura Jenkins
Media Officer
USEPA-Region 8
1595 Wynkoop St.
Mailcode: 8-OC
Denver, CO 80202
Landline: 303-312-6256
Cell: 202-360-8453
Fax: 303-312-6961

From: Spenser W Havlick [mailto:havlick@colorado.edu]
Sent: Sunday, August 16, 2015 5:09 PM
To: R8EISC
Cc: Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Spenser W Havlick
Subject: Re: ... editorial for the Daily Camera ... greetings Shaun,

This message is for Laura Jenkins,

Dear Laura,

Thank you for helping me connect with Shaun McGrath during these very busy days of the Animas River difficulty.

Please let Shaun know how much I appreciated his views that I was able to partly incorporate in my editorial yesterday. His words gave me new insights about the role the state of Colorado should have played.

I attach my revised version for your viewing. Let me know if I can ever be of help to advocate for the EPA, for Shaun, or what good efforts you are making.

Spense Havlick

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Spense Havlick havlick@colorado.edu 241 words

On Aug 12, 2015, at 2:03 PM, R8EISC wrote:

Email: press@epa.gov

Aug. 12, 2015

2:00 PM MDT: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy Holding Media Availability in Durango, CO

DURANGO, CO - EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will visit Durango, CO today to inspect response efforts relating to the release of waste water from Gold King mine, and meet with state, local and tribal officials and community members. McCarthy will hold a media availability in Durango for credentialed news media only about the response. Tomorrow, Administrator McCarthy will visit the response efforts in Farmington, NM. More details about the visit will be released as they become available.

WHEN: 2:00 PM MTN

WHO: EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy

WHAT: Administrator McCarthy media availability on the unified response to the Gold King Mine incident.

WHERE: Outside Gold King Mine Unified Command Center
2500 Main. Ave.
Durango, CO 81301

NOTE: The media availability in Durango will take the place of today's media conference call.

From: Spenser W Havlick <havlick@colorado.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 7:31 PM

To: R8EISC

Cc: Spenser W Havlick

Subject: greetings Shaun,

Spense Havlick is writing a brief editorial for the Daily Camera and would like a brief comment. Spense would like to give EPA the benefit of doubt as he covers this story. Most useful from Shaun would be thoughts on best possible mitigation for the Animas (and Navajo Nation, etc.) and how to prevent future acid mine contamination in Region 8.

Best regards to Shaun from Boulder city council colleague.

This is Spense Havlick writing.....303-494-0664